

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated October 18, 2006. The present Amendment amends claims 6 and cancels claim 13 in order to further clarify a portion of the scope sought to be patented, and otherwise disputes certain findings of fact made in connection with the rejection of the claims. Support for these amendments can be found variously throughout the specification, including, for example, original claims 13. *No new matter has been added.* Accordingly, claims 6, 8-12, and 14-22 are presently pending in the application, each of which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the present Amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the examiner for recognizing claim 13 as containing allowable subject matter. The allowable subject matter of claim 13 has been incorporated into independent claim 6, and claim 13 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

In the Final Office Action, claims 6, 8-10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Takayama '549 et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,549). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Takayama '549. Claims 1 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Takayama '549 in view of Takayama '775 (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,775).

In light of the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claim 13 into independent claim 6, the rejection of claim 6 is improper.

Claims 8-12 and 14-22 depend from claim 6. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 8-12 and 14-22 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 6.

Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 6, 8-12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

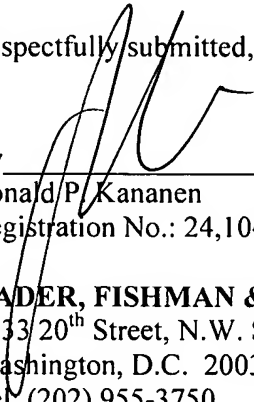
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. KOM-0153/INO/DIV2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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